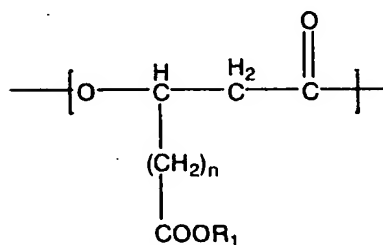


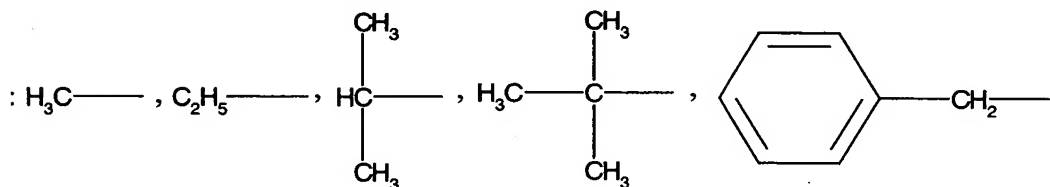
ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a negatively chargeable charge controlling agent to control a charged state of a powder or granular material such as toner for electrophotography, where the agent comprises a polyhydroxyalkanoate having at least one kind of 3-hydroxy- ω -carboxyalkanoic acid unit represented by the chemical formula (1):

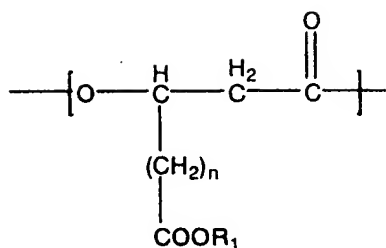


$$n = 1-8 \quad (1)$$

wherein n is an integer selected from 1 to 8; R_1 is an H, Na or K atom, or

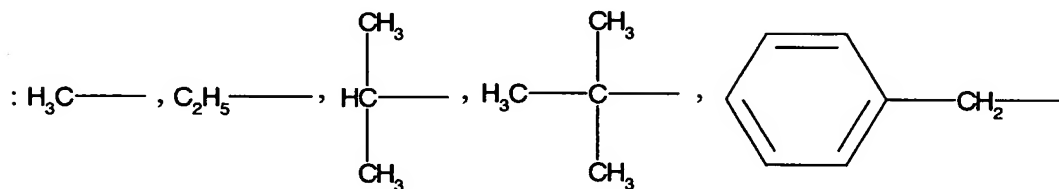


and when more than one unit exists, n and R_1 is the same or different between the units. The charge controlling agent is excellent in electrophotographic properties and propitious to environment because of the biodegradability of the polyhydroxyalkanoate.



$$n = 1-8 \quad (1)$$

wherein n is an integer selected from the range shown in the same chemical formula; R₁ is an H atom, Na atom, K atom, or



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and when more than one unit exists, n and R₁ may differ from unit to unit.